(e) what is the target of exports for agricultural products for the year 1992-93, and what is the direction of trade; and

(f) what is the special strategy that is being adopted to achieve those targets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHRGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (f) Agricultural exports offer an expanded market to the farmer and therefore a higher price realisation. Government has taken various steps to create an environment which is favourable to exports, including export of agricultural products and processed foods from the country. Such measures include the exchange rate adjustments, the introduction of a unified exchange rate, the expansion of the definition of 'manufacture' in the EXIM Policy, to include agricultural and allied activities, simplification in compulsory pre-shipment inspection procedures, lowering custom duties on capital goods and inputs, and the assured avaialbility of export credit on softer terms.

The targets for exports of agricultural items during 1992-93 is US $ 2000 million. Europe, USA and West Asia are the major markets for India's agricultural commodities.

The quantities of sugar exported during 1991-92 and 1992-93 (1-4-1992 to 22-3-1993) are given below :—

1991-92	5.07 lakh MT
1992-93	3.54 lakh MT

(1-4-92 to 22-3-93)

Sri Lanka, CIS, Kenya, Bulgaria, Rumania, Yeman, Greece, France, USA Tanzania, Djibouti, Bangladesh and Nepal are the countries to which Indian sugar was exported during 1992-93.

The question of decontrol of the movement of molasses is under consideration of the Government (Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers).

Review of Drug Value Addition Norms

3866. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV 'RAVI' :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news appearnig in Business Standard dated the 7th February, 1993 under the caption "Drug Value-addition level to be reviewed";

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the observations made therein and facts of the matter;

(c) the details of representation received by Government from Indian Drug Manufacturing Association; and

(d) details of action taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

European Community Plan for Upgrading Quality of Indian Products

3867. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a whether it is a fact that European Community is formulating a plan in consultation with Government of India for upgrading quality of Indian products;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the European Community (EC) has also pledged to help India in implemenattion of the plan with key inputs from Europe;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) whether the European Community (EC) urge Government to privatise the infrastructure sector totally in order to make it efficient and profitable; and

(f) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Government is formulating an Accreditation Scheme for Standards and Conformity which inter-alia includes the establishment of a National Quality Council and three Accreditation Boards working under its umbrella. A European Expert Group has also submitted recommendatons in this respect.

(c) and (d) The EEC has offered expert advice on the technical issues involved and assistance in training personnel and upgradation of laboratories.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Upgradation of Regional Licensing Offices

3868. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the various Regional Licensing Offices of Jaipur, Moradabad etc. have been upgraded, if so, the date from which upgradation of these offices have taken place and what action has been taken to fill up these posts with regular incumbents; and

(b) whwether these posts are still manned by junior officers and whether they are entitled to extra remuneration for performing the duties of higher posts and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A list containing the names of Regional Offices which were up-graded and the date from which these were upgraded is given in the statement (*See* below). However, respective posts could not be created in view of the economy instructions of the Government. Officers who have been manning these Regional Offices were/are only allowed to exercise higher powers. Proposal to grant extra remuneration is being considered.

Statement

Details of Regional Offices under DGFT which were upgraded and the dates from which upgraded.

Name of the Regional Offices	Name before Upgradation	Name after Upgradation	Date from which upgraded
1	2	3	4
1. Jaipur	Dy. CCI & F	Jt. CCI & F (Now Jt. DGFT)	25-4-90
2. Moradabad	Dy. CCI & F	Jt. CCI & F (Now Jt. DGFT)	25-4-90
3. Varanasi	Dy. CCI & F	Jt. CCI & F (Now Jt. DGFT)	24-4-90
4. Ernakulam	Dy. CCI & F	Jt. CCI & F (Now Jt. DGFT)	25-4-90
5. Patna	Asstt. CCI & F	Dy. CCI & F (Now Dy. DGFT)	25-4-90
6. Tuticorin	Asstt. CCI & F	Now closed but a new office of Dy. CCI & F (Now Dy. DGFT) level opened at Madurai	25-4-90
7. Rajkot	Asstt. CCI & F	Dy. CCI & F (Now Dy. DGFT.	24-7-89